

HEALTH

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1947.

JOHN. R. BYARS, MB., Ch.B., DPH.
Medical Officer of Health.

WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemon,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1947.

The report has again been prepared in part from the records of Dr. Martin and with very valuable assistance from Mr. Ashbridge, Sanitary Inspector. A special word of thanks is also due to the staff of the County Health Department for the way in which they carried on the work before I assumed duty.

Statistics in the report again show a satisfactory condition of the general health of the district. The death rate remains about the same as last year while the birth rate exceeds last year's high figure. The illegitimate birth rate is again down but only due to the estimated increase in the population, the actual number being higher than 1946. The one disturbing feature is the marked increase in the number of children dying in the first year of life. A large part of the increase was due to infantile diarrhoea, a disease which tends to be prevalent in a warm summer.

In conclusion, I wish to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, to your Clerk and to Mr. Ashbridge for their assistance and interest in the work of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. BYARS.

Medical Officer of Health.



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VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Area</u> (in acres).....	3,447.
<u>Number of inhabited houses</u> (end of 1947) according to rate books.....	4,349.
<u>Rateable Value</u> , 1st April, 1947.....	£67,352.
<u>Sum represented by a penny rate</u>	£270.

POPULATION:-

1947 Registrar General's estimate.....	14,530.
1931 Census, adjusted for subsequent changes in boundary.....	10,905.

TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the changes in population during the last ten years:-

1937	12,570	1942 a).....	13,310
1938	12,690	b)	
1939 a).....	12,960	1943	13,110
b).....	12,980	1944	13,290
1940 a).....	12,990	1945	13,340
b)		1946	14,230
1941 a).....	13,580	1947	14,530
b)			

a = population appropriate to calculation of death rate.
b = population appropriate to calculation of birth rate.

BIRTHS:-

		1946	1947
Live Births:-	Legitimate.....Male	154	185
	Female	147	154
	Total	301	339
	Illegitimate...Male	12	11
	Female	6	9
	Total	18	20
Total live births.....	Male	166	196
	Female	153	163
	Total	319	359
Stillbirths:-	Legitimate.....Male	4	3
	Female	5	3
	Total	9	6
	Illegitimate...Male	Nil	Nil
	Female	Nil	Nil
	Total	Nil	Nil
Total stillbirths...	Male	4	3
	Female	5	3
	Total	9	6

<u>Birthrate per 1,000</u> estimated population:-	1946.	1947.
Wigston.....	22.4.	24.7
England & Wales.....	19.1	20.5

<u>Illegitimate birthrate</u> per 1,000 live births:-	1946.	1947.
Wigston.....	56.4	55.7
<u>Stillbirths:-</u> Rate per 1,000 live and still births.....	27.4	16.4
<u>Stillbirths:-</u> Rate per 1,000 estimated population		
Wigston.....	0.63	0.41
England & Wales.....	0.53	0.50

TABLE Showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total live births Wigston	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population.)		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England & Wales.
1937	253	20.0	14.9	14.9
1938	230	18.1	15.3	15.1
1939	229	17.7	15.0	15.0
1940	224	17.3	15.1	14.6
1941	225	17.7	14.6	14.2
1942	261	19.6	17.3	15.8
1943	287	21.9	19.6	16.5
1944	315	23.7	21.1	17.6
1945	254	19.0	18.8	16.1
1946	319	22.4	20.6	19.1
1947	359	24.7	21.2	20.5

<u>DEATHS:-</u>		1946.	1947.
<u>Total Number of Deaths:-</u>	Male.....	81	89
	Female.....	76	75
	Total.....	157	164

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:-

Wigston.....	11.1	11.3
England & Wales.....	11.5	12.0

TABLE showing the changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total Deaths Wigston	Death Rates (per 1,000 population) Not corrected for age or for sex distribution of the population.		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England & Wales
1937	131	10.4	11.9	12.4
1938	137	10.7	10.5	11.6
1939	142	10.9	10.8	12.1
1940	162	12.5	12.4	14.3
1941	167	12.3	11.0	12.9
1942	136	10.2	10.4	11.6
1943	174	13.3	11.3	12.1
1944	160	12.0	11.2	11.6
1945	146	10.9	11.1	11.4
1946	157	11.1	10.7	11.5
1947	164	11.3	11.3	12.0

<u>Deaths from puerperal causes:-</u>		1946	1947
<u>No. of deaths:-</u>	Puerperal sepsis.....	Nil	Nil
	Other puerperal causes.....	Nil	1

<u>Rate per 1,000 live and still births:-</u>			
	Wigston	Nil	2.74
	England and Wales.....	1.43	1.17

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

<u>No. of Deaths:-</u>	Legitimate.....	Male.....	8	10
		Female.....	5	11
		Total.....	13	21
	Illegitimate.....	Male.....	Nil	2
		Female.....	1	-
		Total.....	1	2
	Total infant deaths.....		14	23

<u>Infant mortality per 1,000 live births:-</u>			
	Wigston.....	44	64
	England and Wales.....	43	41

TABLE showing deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total Infant deaths.	Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 live births.		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England & Wales.
1937	10	39	49	58
1938	12	52	44	53
1939	14	61	46	50
1940	11	49	46	55
1941	18	70	50	59
1942	20	77	47	49
1943	18	63	42	49
1944	12	38	37	46
1945	10	39	36	46
1946	14	44	36	43
1947	23	64	43	41

Causes of Death:-

Registrar General's Classification:-

	1946			1947		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping-cough.....	1	-	1	1	1	2
5. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	7	1	8	5	5	10
7. Tuberculosis, non-respiratory.....	1	1	2	2	1	3
8. Syphilitic diseases.....	1	-	1	1	-	1
9. Influenza.....	1	-	1	1	-	1
10. Measles.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Cancer, of bucal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f) ..	-	-	-	-	-	-

	1946			1947		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum.....	2	1	3	4	2	6
15. Cancer of breast.....	-	3	3	-	2	2
16. Cancer, all other sites.....	6	2	8	3	6	9
17. Diabetes.....	1	1	2	-	-	-
18. Intra cranial vascular lesions.....	6	10	16	10	8	18
19. Heart Disease.....	24	23	47	24	18	42
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system.....	1	-	1	-	-	-
21. Bronchitis.....	5	5	10	3	4	7
22. Pneumonia.....	1	2	3	9	2	11
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	-	1	1	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	-	-	-	4	2	6
26. Appendicitis.....	-	1	1	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.....	3	-	3	-	3	3
28. Nephritis.....	5	6	11	6	5	11
29. Puerperal and post abortion sepsis -	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.....	-	-	-	-	1	1
31. Premature birth.....	4	5	9	3	4	7
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases.....	2	1	3	1	3	4
33. Suicide.....	-	-	-	2	-	2
34. Road traffic accidents.....	1	-	1	1	-	1
35. Other violent causes.....	2	1	3	2	2	4
36. All other causes.....	7	12	19	6	5	11
Total deaths, all causes.....	81	76	157	89	75	164

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspector:-

Mr. Fred Boustead Ashbridge,
Cert. SIB., MRSanI., MSIA.

I am indebted to Mr. Ashbridge for the following information upon the Sanitary circumstances of the area:-

Water Supply:-

The Leicester Corporation mains convey an adequate supply of water throughout the district with the exception of a part of the parish of East Wigston, which is of a rural character. Negotiations are still in hand to provide a supply to three farm premises and nine dwelling-houses in the Newton Lane area of East Wigston.

- a) Number of dwelling-houses having a piped water supply laid into the houses..... 4,238.
Population concerned.....14,336.
- b) Number of dwelling-houses supplied from stand-pipes..... 56.
Population concerned..... 180.
- c) Number of wells in use..... 9.
Number of dwelling-houses served by wells..... 14.
Population concerned..... 53

Four wells were cleansed during the year.

Sewage:-

A new sewer was completed to provide for housing developments in the Aylestone Lane - Station Road area.

On the 31st December there were 23 cesspools in the district.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in the district:-

a) Privies.....	Nil
b) Pail closet.....	24
c) Water closets.....	4,924

Public Cleansing and Salvage:-

An efficient service continues to be maintained. Kitchen waste is collected twice a week, and other salvage and refuse is collected once a fortnight. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping.

Pail closets are emptied each week, and cesspools are emptied once a fortnight.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

Total no. of complaints received during the year.....	201
Total no. of defects or nuisances discovered.....	762

Total no. of inspections made:-	First Inspections	Revisits.
Animal keeping.....	43	62
Bakehouses.....	5	15
Dairies and Cowsheds.....	28	155
Drainage works.....	22	46
Dwelling-houses (all purposes).....	494	1,260
Food premises.....	35	58
Offensive trades.....	Nil	Nil
Rats and mice destruction.....	90	185
Refuse collection & disposal.....	422	626
Schools.....	3	12
Shops.....	61	42
Slaughter-house and meat inspection..	10	62
Tents, vans, sheds etc.....	3	8
Verminous premises & scabies.....	10	32
Water supplies.....	38	54
Workshops.....	10	26
Other inspections.....	142	262
Total inspections.....	1416	2905

Notices served during the year:-

Preliminary:-

	Housing.	Public Health.
Outstanding on January 1st 1947.	Nil	53
Issued during the year.....	68	622
Complied with during the year...	66	610
Statutory action necessary.....	Nil	4
Outstanding on December 31st 47.	2	65

Statutory:-

Outstanding on January 1st 1947.	Nil	Nil
Issued during the year.....	Nil	4
Complied with during the year...	Nil	4
Outstanding on December 31st 47.	Nil	Nil

No summary action was taken during the year.

Shops:-

Defects found in sanitary conveniences during the year.....	2
Defects remedied during the year.....	2
Defects in temperature found during the year.....	2
Defects in temperature remedied during the year..	2
Defects in ventilation found during the year.....	3
Defects in ventilation remedied during the year..	3
Defects outstanding on December 31st 1947.....	Nil

Regulated Buildings:-

Number of dwelling-vans in the area.....	3
Number of inspections made.....	11
Action taken.....	Nil
General conditions.....	Good

The vans are semi-permanent, with main water and drainage available. They are not over-crowded. There is no lodging-house in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:-

Number of council houses found infested.....	Nil
Number of other houses found infested.....	12
Number of houses disinfested.....	12
Number of disinfestations carried out by local authority.....	12
Number of disinfestations carried out by outside Contractor.....	Nil

Swimming Baths open to the Public:-

There is one public swimming bath in the area. This is closed because of its unsatisfactory water supply.

Schools:-

There was no defect or nuisance at any of the schools in the area, and no action was necessary.

H O U S I N G.

1. New Houses:-

Number of applications for council houses at the end of the year.....	1551
Programme of new council houses to be erected:-	
First year.....	144
Subsequent years.....	312
Number of houses erected during the year by private enterprise.....	19
Number of houses in course of construction at the end of year, by private enterprise.....	4

2. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- a. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 494

Number of inspections made for the purpose....1750

- b. Number of dwelling-houses (including those above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932..... Nil

- c. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation... Nil
- d. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those in previous sub-heading) found to be not in all respects fit for human inhabitation..... 68

3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or its officers..... 66

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:- 4

5. Housing Act 1936 - Part IV., Overcrowding:-

Owing to the absence of building during the war years there is now considerable overcrowding in the area. Every effort is made to alleviate conditions of overcrowding, particularly in cases where it is such as to affect the health of the persons concerned, and the situation will improve considerably when the new council houses have been completed.

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

i) Retailers (other than cow-keepers):-

Number on Register..... 62
 Number of inspections made..... 120
 Number of contraventions found..... Nil
 Number of contraventions outstanding from 1946.. Nil

ii) Producers (including those who retail milk):-

Number on Register..... 16
 Number of inspections made..... 63
 Number of contraventions found..... 5
 Contraventions outstanding from 1946..... Nil
 Contraventions remedied..... 5
 Contraventions outstanding on Dec. 31st 1947.... Nil

Of the five contraventions, three were concerned with cleansing and two with utensils.

Milk Sampling:-

Designated Milk:- Total number of samples taken for
 (Pasteurised) bacteriological examination..... 70
 Number found satisfactory..... 70

Ordinary Milk:- Total number of samples taken
 for bacteriological examination..109
 Number found satisfactory.....103

Investigations are made when any samples are found unsatisfactory, and repeat samples taken.

Meat and Other Foods:-

There are no regional slaughter-houses in the area. Two slaughter-houses are open for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs. 154 animals have been slaughtered in the district during the year. All the carcasses were inspected. No whole carcass was condemned, but in 12 cases a part or an organ of the carcass was condemned.

No: of Inspections:-

Knackers Yards.....	12
Meat Stalls.....	Nil
Meat shops and stores.....	27
Places where food other than meat is kept or prepared for sale.....	42

LABORATORY REPORT.

The following examinations were carried out in the County Laboratory:-

Milk examinations (bacteriological).....	233
Sputa for T.B.....	73
Milk for phosphatase test.....	72
Urine (general and bacteriological).....	36
Swabs for Diphtheria.....	13
Sewage and water analysis.....	4
Films for gonococci.....	1
Blood counts.....	3
Miscellaneous.....	1

Total examinations..... 436

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious diseases occur in cycles. In 1946 scarlet fever was prevalent. This year measles provided the highest number of cases.

It will be seen from the table that only two cases of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, occurred in the district.

Two interesting outbreaks of food-poisoning were investigated. In each the cause was proved to be the eating of duck eggs that had been insufficiently cooked. Although the cause was the same in both outbreaks, the eggs came from different parts of the county. The infective germ was found in eggs laid by the suspected ducks and in the ducks. Duck eggs must at all times be thoroughly cooked.

The demand for diphtheria immunisation was very good during the year. At least two sessions were held every month in South Wigston and Wigston Magna and only very few parents do not now avail themselves of this life saving measure.

TABLE showing cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease	Under	1 -	3 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	65 -	Unknown	Total	To Hospital	Deaths.
Measles	-	4	27	18	46	-	1	-	-	-	-	96	3	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	5	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	18	15	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	4	12	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	4	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
C.S. Meningitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	-	-
A.P.M.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	1	-

"To Hospital" includes cases where the diagnosis was not subsequently confirmed.
TABLE showing particulars of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis.

Age Group.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 1 to 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 " 14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 15 " 24 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 25 " 34 "	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
" 35 " 44 "	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
" 45 " 54 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 55 " 64 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	4	-	3	5	5	2	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/o line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/o line No: (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	1	8	24	2	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	2	64	75	5	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority + (excluding out-workers' premises).....	3	4	8	2	Nil	3
Total.....		74	107	9	Nil	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	M/o line No: (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/o line No: (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)..	4	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2.).....	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.).....	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).							
(a) Insufficient.....	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	7	5	Nil	4	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	12	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
Total.....	60	12	10	Nil	4	Nil	60

+ i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)). Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	M/c line No:	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No:
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
earing) Making etc. (pparel)	13	101	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	13
Cleaning & washing	14							14